GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Dept., of GV/WV & VS/WS – Village / Ward Secretariats – Enhancement of Newspaper allowance to Grama & Ward Volunteers and Grama & Ward Secretariat Functionaries from Rs.200/- to Rs.250/- per month per head– Towards Subscription of any widely circulated daily Newspaper(s) which covers all latest news of Government Welfare Schemes– Orders – Issued.

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DEPARTMENT OF GRAM VOLUNTEERS / WARD VOLUNTEERS & VILLAGE SECRETARIATS / WARD SECRETARIATS

G.O.Rt.No.18 Dated:14.08.2023

Read the Following:

1. G.O Rt No. 12, GVWV&VSWS Department, Dated 29.02.2022.
2. G.O Rt No. 25, GVWV&VSWS Department, Dated 08.12.2022
3. G.O Rt No. 06, GVWV&VSWS Department, Dated 03.04.2023.
4. G.O Rt No. 07, GVWV&VSWS Department, Dated 03.04.2023
5. From the Director, GV/WV & VS/WS, Vijayawada, e-File.No. GWS02-COOR/54/2023-SCHM, (Computer. No. 2024888), Dt:10.08.2023.

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ORDER:

In the G O first read above, the Government has accorded permission to the Director, GSWS, Vijayawada for providing an additional financial support to each Grama/Ward Volunteer @Rs.200/- per month in addition to the existing honorarium of Rs.5000/- per month till March 2023 so as to enable them to subscribe any widely circulated newspaper(s). In the reference 3rd read above, the Government has extended the above additional financial support to them until further orders.

2. In the reference 2nd read above, the Government has accorded permission to the Director, GSWS, Vijayawada to provide additional financial support to each Grama/Ward Secretariat Functionary @Rs.200/- per month till March 2023 to subscribe any widely circulated newspaper(s). In the reference 4th read above, the Government has extended the above additional financial support to them until further orders.

(Contd...2)

3. The said financial support was in the nature of an allowance without any restriction on the choice of newspaper selection. Every Volunteer / Functionary could subscribe to one or more newspapers where the State's assistance was however limited to Rs.200/- per month only, and the decision taken was not based on the cost of any newspaper.

4. This was clearly understood and no representation about the newspaper price or cost was raised by any person including any newspaper publisher or Grama/Ward volunteer / Functionary.

5. However, certain newspaper establishments have approached the Hon'ble Andhra Pradesh High Court in February 2023 vide Writ Petition No.3041/2023 stating that the monthly subscription price of their newspaper is more than the amount sanctioned by the Government and the allowance limited to Rs. 200 per month is affecting them. The Government had filed its response clearly stating about the nature of allowance and also mentioned that there was no restriction on the choice of the newspaper.

6. In the reference 5th read above, the Director, GSWS, Vijayawada has requested the Government to enhance the said allowance from Rs.200/- to Rs.250/- per month per head in order to ensure that choice of newspapers is not curbed on account of any misunderstanding or confusion arising out of the gesture of the government in providing the monthly additional assistance of a couple of hundreds towards newspaper allowance.

7. Government after careful examination of the matter, hereby enhance the additional financial support to the Grama /Ward Volunteers and Grama / Ward Secretariat Functionaries from Rs.200/- to Rs.250/- per month per head as allowance for subscribing to any newspaper (s) duly permitting the Drawing & Disbursing Officers to draw the enhanced newspaper (s) allowances along with the honorarium of Volunteers and Salaries of Functionaries under the existing Heads of Account.

8. The Director, GSWS Department and the Commissioner & Director, Municipal Administration, Vaddeswaram shall take necessary action accordingly.

(Contd...3)

9. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide their U.O.No.FMU0MISC/103/2022-FMU-PRRDRWS, Computer.No. 149456, Ddated:12.083.2023.

(BY ORDR AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

AJAY JAIN
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

To
The Director, GV/VW & VS/WS, Vijayawada.
The Commissioner & Director, Municipal Administration, Vaddeswaram
All the District Collectors in the state.
Copy to:
The Finance (FMU-PR&RD) Department.
The Finance (Budget.I) Department.
The Pay and Accounts Officer, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The CEO, APCFSS, Mangalagiri.
SF/SC

// FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //

S. Mary Ratnamani
SECTION OFFICER.